

SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK SERVICE COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

6:00 P.M., Thursday, February 23, 2017

Administration Building, Hemlock Knoll, Lawrence Station, NB

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Joyce Wright, LSD Dennis Weston
Garry Christie, LSD St. Patrick
Wade Greenlaw, LSD Dufferin
Ken Stannix, Village of McAdam
Dennis Blair, LSD McAdam / St. Croix
Winston Gamblin, Village of Harvey
Doug Naish, Town of St. Andrews
Crystal Cook, Town of St. George
Carla Brown, LSD St. David
Allan MacEachern, Town of St. Stephen
Heather Hatt, LSD Fundy Bay
Annette Townes, LSD St. James
David Szemerda, LSD Pennfield
James Tubbs, LSD Dumbarton

Via Conference Call: Terry James, Village of Blacks Harbour

STAFF

Frank Tenhave, Executive Director, SNBSC
Claudette MacLean, Secretary to the Board, SNBSC
Mark Porter, Financial Officer, SNBSC

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Presenters;
Greg Evans, Tourism, Heritage and Culture
Darren Turner, Executive Sub-Committee of the Coastal Link Trail
Scott Boyd, Resident of St. George

Twelve members of the public were in attendance.

Call to Order

The Chairperson, Joyce Wright, called the meeting to order at approx. 6:00 p.m.

She indicated that there were 14 Board members present at the table, and thus quorum was declared. A check of the conference calling system showed that there were 1 Board member in attendance via Conference Call. She also welcomed the presenters and thanked members of the public for attending.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Chair asked all members to declare any conflicts of interest that they may be in. No conflicts were declared.

Adoption of Agenda

The chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting that was projected on the screen.

17-09 It was moved by G. Christie, seconded by W. Greenlaw that the agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

Public Presentation

Presentation re; Regional Planning; What, Why and How

Greg Evans made a PowerPoint presentation on the Regional Recreation Planning system. He noted that, under the new Regional Service Commission system, "Regional sport, recreational and cultural planning and cost-sharing" was a mandated service as per legislation by the province in 2012. He went on to give a brief summary of the benefits of recreation in the communities, according to a study done in 2008 by Dr. Colin Higgs. By investing in recreation our communities and the entire region would gain benefits in health, personal growth, economic development, regeneration, safety, environmental improvement, and social inclusion.

More and more communities need to work together in order to provide cost effective, affordable, sustainable recreation facilities. The Province developed a plan to help the commissions to create their own recreation plans, by using its strategies and working together.

The Objective of this plan is to support regional and sub-regional planning for long term development and investment in the communities. It can be a sub-regional plan i.e. any municipalities and/or LSDs working with any other municipalities and/or LSDs or a regional plan that covers the entire service commission footprint. The province will help support either with its funding programs.

There is available support from the province up to 75% of eligible cost to a maximum of \$75,000, per project. The SNBSC can apply for different projects but the province would like to see a link between the projects. To apply for this assistance a letter or request from the service commission outlining the project and commission share, a detailed terms of reference and the

municipalities and/or LSDs involved in the recreation planning must be sent to the Department of Tourism Heritage and Culture (THC).

Once planning been completed, the province would assist with the financial support to assist in the implementation of the project, by ways of consulting or professional services. There is currently no time limit on the length of project.

He briefly touched on the Framework for Recreation in Canada guide and the New Brunswick Sports and Recreation policy. There is a recreation planning tool/app on the Service New Brunswick web site for stakeholders to use. No examples were available at this time regarding how this tool has worked in other parts of the province.

This PowerPoint presentation will be emailed out to all board members in the near future.

Presentation re; Proposed Regional Trail

Darren Turner, Chairperson of the Executive Sub-Committee of the proposed Coastal Link Trail, made a PowerPoint presentation on the Coastal Link Trail project. This presentation was to inform the Board Members about the trail project, and to seek community support for the trail from St. Stephen to Saint John. This could be the board's first recreation project.

This trail would create an opportunity to enhance the community's health and well-being of its citizens, to connect communities in the service region, and to hold competitions and events which will bring people into the communities.

The goals of this group is to redefine recreation and increase its capacity, provide a conduit for active living, allow for inclusion and access for all citizens, connect people with nature and support the environment.

To get this trail project off the ground, the communities, interest groups, and government must all be involved in this trail system project. One key to success is to educate the public about the benefits of recreation through projects such as this.

The mission of this group is to work with the Southwest municipalities and LSDs to get the proposed trail built and connected to other trails using the trail plan that they are developing.

They are seeking funding for the Health Benefit study that is in Phase 2 of their plan. The amount they are asking for from the commission is \$8000.00 which is 25 % of the total cost, if THC agrees to provide the other 75%. They will come back to the Board with the study and its findings and then, working in partnership with the Board, determine how they are going to proceed forward.

This PowerPoint presentation will be emailed out to board members in the near future.

A few questions were asked and answered by members of the Board and the presenter.

Presentation re; Proposed Multi-function Facility in the general St. George Area

Scott Boyd, a resident of St. George, gave a brief summary of a project that his committee wanted the Board to be aware of and to ensure that it knew that his committee would be bringing a firm proposal back to this Board at an appropriate time. This group is made of residents from both municipality and neighboring LSD. They propose building a wellness-based multi-use facility that people in the entire area can use.

This facility would be expandable while also being able to sustain itself financially. It could also be used as a conference center and a training center. The town of St. George is funding a Needs Assessment Study for this group at this time.

Scott was clear with the Board that he was not asking for anything yet, they just want to make the Board aware of what they would be returning to the Board with i.e. a specific proposal

Adoption of Minutes

The Chair then referred to the next agenda item which were the minutes of the last Board meeting. They had been e-mailed out prior to the meeting - and were now being projected on the screen. She indicated that all have had the opportunity to review them and thus she was looking for a motion to approve.

17-10 It was moved by A. Townes, seconded by J. Tubbs that the minutes of the January 26, 2017 Regular Board meeting is approved as circulated. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Previous Meetings

None at this time

New Business

Recreation Committee

After much discussion about the three presentations tonight, the consensus of the board was to move ahead with a committee to assist with sports and recreation in the region.

17-11 It was moved by T. James, seconded by A. MacEachern that a recreation committee be formed to review recreation and sports matters for RSC area and bring insight and recommendations for Board consideration. CARRIED

Members that volunteered to be on this committee were; C. Cook, D. Rowlands, T. James and H. Heather.

Ad-Hoc Recycling Review Committee

D. Szemerda, chair of this committee, presented this report to the Board, while it was projected on the screen. Options charts were handed out to all members at the table. He gave brief overview of the report and chart. The charts were structured to provide information regarding their environmental impact, economic impact, political impact and the moral/social impact of the various recycling options under consideration at this time.

17-12 It was moved by D. Szemerda, seconded by W. Gamblin that all Board members take this sheet of options under discussion back to the public that they represent and seek their input and opinions on them, including noting any new options that may be identified through this process. We ask that the Board members bring back their findings, in some sort of written report form, for the April Board meeting. CARRIED G. Christie voted NAY.

This committee looked at the Gas Tax rebate allocated to the LSD for a way to support the Recycling program. Because this rebate is all pooled into one pot for the LSDs across the province and there is no formal application process, it has been very difficult to get any documentation that indicates where their funds go. The committee had great concern, and would like the board to take action. The Gas Tax rebate could be put towards capital purchases that the recycling program needs, i.e. new recycle trucks.

The committee came across the Clean Water and Wastewater Removal Fund, which approved a leachate treatment system for another Service Commission. By applying for and receiving this funding for the leachate treatment, would help offset the recycling revenue shortfall.

17-13 it was moved by D. Szemerda, seconded by W. Greenlaw that the Board direct staff of the SNBSC to draft a letter to the Minister of Environment and Local Government, to be signed by the chair, requesting a document giving a specific listings of all Gas Tax funds distributed or used for projects within the LSD regions of the province and/or our region. CARRIED.

After this motion passed there was a discussion of the letter with several Board members indicating that it should be brought back to the Board for review prior to sending it out. Based on this consensus the Chair indicated that this would be done.

17-14 it was moved by D. Szemerda, seconded by A. MacEachern that the Board authorize this committee and staff to immediately pursue whatever is necessary in order to get an official request or official application into government for Gas Tax funding in an amount to allow for the purchase of two (2) new recycling trucks and the replacement of the thirty (30) blue bins currently in use in our recycling program. CARRIED.

17-15 it was moved by D. Szemerda, seconded by J. Tubbs that the Board direct staff to immediately pursue the process information for how to apply for such funding and to apply for funding from this (Clean Water and Freshwater Removal Fund) program in the amount estimated to be the cost of a new leachate treatment system here. CARRIED.

Regular Financial Report

M. Porter gave a brief outline of the year end public sector statements, which was

projected on the screen. He reviewed only three specific pages of documents (for the 2016 fiscal year), which are part of the financial statements included within the audit process.

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director, F. Tenhave gave a brief overview of his report that was projected on the screen. One item of concern that he raised was the Workplace Safe NB assessment increased by 60%. On the waste side, tonnage is up a bit over last year at this time. On the planning side a full- time planner was hired, along with the purchase of specialized IT equipment with software specific for Planning needs. He went on to provide an update on items that other rural RSCs were doing as well as what the Department of Environment and Local Government were doing, especially with respect to proposed changes to the Municipalities Act and the Community Planning Act.

Report on Collaborative Activity:

There was no such activity to report on at this time.

Date, Time and Location of Next Board Meeting:

The Chair informed that the next meeting of the Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission will be;

Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:00 at the Administration Building, SNBSC Solid Waste Division, Hemlock Knoll, Lawrence Station. NB.

Question & Answer Period with Public in Attendance

No questions was asked.

Adjournment

It was moved by G. Christie that the meeting adjourn (at approx. 8:31 p.m.)